

# UA EAI Working Group Meeting

## 01 August 2023

### Attendees

Mark Svancarek

Abdalmonem Galila

Harsha Wijayawardhana

Alhassan Sulemana

Emmanuel Oruk

Georgia Osborn

Jim DeLaHunt

Johnkenedy Kungura

Kunle Olorundare

Olivier Kouami

Prof Ibrahim Tchakala

Temwani

Tony Wiredu

Yin May Oo

### Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and roll call
2. Draft an [SOW for FY24 Action Item E2.1](#) (Make it easier to experiment with a self-hosted working EAI systems)
3. Clean up the EAI Self Certification [Guide](#)
4. AOB

**Meeting recording:** [Link](#); password 4L1JX^9PsW

### Meeting Notes

#### Discussion on SOW for Self-Hosted Working EAI Systems

Mark leads the meeting with discussion of drafting the SOW.

Mark asked to check with ICANN's vendor policy to make sure how to avoid endorsing or being involved with commercial softwares. Mark said the challenge would like to be in line with the policy.

Mark briefly explained the purpose of the SOW and continued to the session 'Deliverables'.

Abdalmonem asked about the comments on proprietary softwares. Mark explained that was the comment from ICANN, suggestion on removing some

software names in the list of vendor's deliverables. Mark said removing proprietary softwares from the testing list might not be an issue, and asked which softwares is purely open-sourced and how many are commercially available.

Abdalmonem asked why not have a dialog with the email service software providers such as Xgen, Coremail, and Yandex, which could lead to solving license issues. For Abdalmonem's opinion, if he were an email software vendor, this would benefit him, or make his software being acknowledged as the first software vendor with EAI readiness.

Mark said it would benefit the commercial software services, however, it is not the way, what we speak here may not be the real solution. Yin May said she would get back to the WG on this matter at the next meeting. Mark and WG's co-chairs would like to know and make sure what is allowed and what not.

If the WG feels strongly to use the commercial software as there is no alternative open source option, it would need further discussion. The Legal review is to be performed once the draft of SOW is ready.

Mark suggested leaving the examples and Arnt's and Seda's comments as they are and move on with completing the draft. Abdalmonem suggested negotiating with commercial software providers to provide free emails and other services of EAI readiness for users. He asked if this would be acceptable. Mark said he understood but needed to check.

Jim said it sounded like somehow we could make some commercial service provider to provide us free service. However, the primary issue is ICANN does not want to give advantages to one commercial provider over another. This is regardless of license fees or service fees. This would be a separate issue.

Mark summarized the two issues: the first is the policy allowing the software to be part of the task; and how would the WG benefit from commercial offerings.

Harsha said the goal is to help everyone register email addresses of their own scripts with their own domain names. The users may already have their own domains presumably, and need to be guided as a novice user on configurations.

The DNS server is to be configured for supporting those email addresses and the vendor should provide the step by step solution. The reversed DNS is also required. Mark agreed with Harsha that the training material should explain how to change the DNS, and reverse DNS. Harsha added the need to configure STF as well. Harsha asked if there is any requirement for the user to be able to get an email with a domain, Mark answered “yes”. Harsha said he might be able to provide as well, but he would need to go through additional steps. Mark said there could be unknown limitations. Mark said meanwhile, he would leave the comments as they are, and continue to finish the SOW draft, and would do policy discussion later.

Mark added a bullet to the Deliverable, as #2 : *“Training materials and configuration materials must demonstrate or facilitate the configuration of DNS and reverse DNS to allow a user to use their own domain name when they are self-hosting the system.”*

Jim suggested using the word ‘novice’ as it is not simple to set up a self-hosting email server. We should not make it look like the complicated things are easy, and to be mindful that the target audience is an IT person who has the ability to provide a self-hosting email system. If you know how to set up an email system using ASCII, here is how you can set up a trial email system which includes EAI. Mark agreed that it seemed fair. Harsha said if we expect the target audience to have some knowledge and experience, we can just share a step by step instructure which would be properly packaged.

Harsha suggested keeping the options in #1 to open-sources. What we need is good documentation with configuration guides like docker. Harsha said it did not take him a long time to compile the solutions. Jim said WG cannot just follow the invisible policy team rules and keep self censoring. Jim said the Measurement WG did an evaluation of four Leading Email Products which includes commercial services without product maker assistance. Jim agreed to pause on this matter.

Mark said he edited #2 as follows:

*“Training materials and configuration materials must demonstrate or facilitate the step-by-step configuration of the system to allow a user to use their preferred domain name and mailbox names when they are self-hosting the system.”*

Abdalmonem said it is good to have training materials, however, there is no advice to allow or disallow email address internationalization by Federal rules, or anti-spam rules to protect the users. Abdalmonem is facing the challenge of Firewalls blocking such email addresses. Abdalmonem thinks advice is needed for administering EAI addresses for Firewalls and Anti-spams.

Mark added in #3 : “The training material must also address common challenges when managing spam filters and firewalls when setting up and operating an email system.

Jim said managing firewalls and spam filters of other organizations that block EAI addresses is a separate scope. Jim suggested documenting on managing one’s own spam filters and firewalls. Jim shared his thoughts on the partial purpose of doing the evaluation of EAI services is to find out what other organizations would block EAI addresses. This is an idea for a separate paper, and the vendor should not cross this boundary line.

Harsha said in Sri Lanka, some ISPs did not lift the filters for IDN and EAI email addresses. Harsha asked Abdalmonem if there was a spam-filter for Arabic script. Abdalmonem said he did not try himself, however, using Open Demure worked.

Mark edited #4 based on Seda’s comments: “The proposed solution must have been tested using EAI self-certification guide and achieve a Gold rating or Platinum rating.

Jim asked if we wanted the vendor to perform a self-certification test on the system that they would create to show Gold or Platinum rating, or the vendor would be allowed to use the components which are already rated by somebody else. Jim said there are no email components which have proper ratings of the self-certification guide so far.

Mark said if a component is already rated, the vendor does not have to duplicate the effort, however, if there is absence of self-certification, the vendor can perform the certification using the guide. Jim said even if the used components

are Gold or Platinum rated, when you put them into a system, their EAI capabilities might change, thus, the vendor needs to make sure the system they built is actually EAI compatible.

Mark agreed and wrote #4 as Jim suggested:

*“The vendor shall test and certify the proposed solutions using the EAI Self-Certification Guide and achieve a Gold rating or Platinum rating.”*

Harsha said the vendor must have a server setup or server instances, Mark requested Harsha to hold this idea for a while.

Abdalmonem shared his doubt on number #4, the email tools such as calendar or addressbook were not touched. That would be wrong to suggest Platinum rating at this point and Gold rating is enough. We’re going to open source it, for experimenters to have a taste of EAI.

Kunle commented that certifying oneself sounds wrong. Mark explained that the purpose of the self-certification guide is to do self testing and self checking when the third-party assessment is unavailable. This would be the template that those third parties would be using. For people who have been in this community would know the concept of self-certification and acceptable for them.

Hersha talked about the email components in the #1, and pointed out that there is a need to have a complete platform. Mark adjusted the wording of #1:

*One or more pre-configured VMs or containers containing complete mail solutions or webmail services, or hosted free trials, Antispam configuration scripts, and appropriate licenses, suitable for deployment on popular cloud platforms. (note: examples are excluded to shorten the text.)*

Action item: Harsha will add more wording edits to #1.

Harsha also suggested creating an image and putting it in a container (eg. Kubernetes) would help a lot of people to set up and configure on their own. Mark agreed and said since Harsha would be re-writing #1, he could include it.

Jim said #1 does not contain the idea of using a host and a service hosted by somebody else. Jim shared his thought that including would be helpful for



organizations to experiment with EAI. Jim and Mark added that this is about EAI testing and trials, and not about having permanent EAI email addresses.

Harsha asked if the hosted part should be excluded, and Jim prevented it. Some organizations may want to set up a server that they could control and run, while some would just want to experiment with a trial. Jim suggested catering to both and Harsha asked if this would be agreeable with a solution package or docker. Jim said pre-configured VM would mean the same idea.

Mark said #1 should be settled by the next meeting and the meeting was ended.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, 15 August 2023 and 14:30 UTC

**Action items:**

No.	Action Item	Owner
1	Confirmation for EAI WG to avoid Conflict of Interest	ICANN Staff
2	Add wording adjustment to #1 of Deliverables	Harsha